

**BUDGET STATEMENT
FY2022**

**NANCY ANDRADE
CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER
CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

October 6, 2021

Honorable Chairman Dowell and Honorable Members of the City Council Committee on the Budget and Government Operations:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and staff, I hereby submit the following statement in support of the Mayor's 2022 Budget Recommendation for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR).

The Commission on Human Relations serves as the civil rights enforcement agency for the city. We investigate and adjudicate complaints of discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, and credit. We also mediate conflicts between individuals and groups, assist victims of hate crimes, and provide education programs to reduce discrimination and fight hate.

Last year we listened to the voices of this esteemed Council which suggested we increase our outreach and marketing efforts. We heard you, and because of your recommendations, the Commission proved itself nimble, pivoting to a virtual outreach platform to continue its work. Zoom meetings became the norm for the Commission both for outreach and in adjudication matters. Thanks to technology, settlement conferences virtually took place for parties whose complaints of discrimination were deemed to be substantial. Virtual outreach included a webinar series with topics on "Know Your Rights Under the Chicago Housing Ordinance" and "Treating the Transgender and Non-Binary community with Respect." Our social media platform was strengthened and has served as both as an educational and promotional vehicle.

These outreach efforts have borne fruit as the Commission has responded to Aldermanic requests for assistance in matters involving immigrant laborers, and to provide community mediation services in situations involving race tensions among neighbors. Racial tensions and hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community permeated the news at the start of this calendar year and the Commission responded to this crisis by creating an Ad-Hoc Committee on AAPI Hate Crimes. The Committee is composed of 25 stakeholders from the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander community, including two CPD Commanders from Districts with a large AAPI community.

Our marketing efforts will continue through social media platforms paired with educational video vignettes. A digital and print marketing campaign on the CTA will further awareness of our free resources available to all Chicagoans.

The work of the Commission remains relevant as the principals of racial equity stem from the concept of civil rights. As equity and inclusion are important remedies to systemic discrimination, civil rights laws provide legal protection against discrimination which is needed now as much as ever. Therefore, it is critical that the Commission continue this important work under the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work to make our city one where equity and racial justice become foundations to our success.

Respectfully,

Nancy Andrade
Chair and Commissioner